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EXDIS

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, XF, EG
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MUBARAK MEETING WITH CODEL GARN

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: SENATOR JAKE GARN(R. UTAH) AND STATE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS, RICHARD KREIGER MET WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK ON SATURDAY APRIL 21 FOR ONE HOUR AT ARUBA PALACE. MUBARAK SAID THAT WHILE HE DID NOT EXPECT MAJOR PROGRESS ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS IN A U. S. ELECTION YEAR, ISRAEL WOULD ADVANCE THE PROCESS SIGNIFICANTLY BY WITHDRAWING ITS FORCES FROM LEBANON AFTER ITS OWN JULY ELECTIONS. HE WAS CRITICAL OF U. S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY AS HAVING FAILED IN MOST AREAS IN RECENT YEARS BUT WAS HIGH IN HIS PRAISE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S COMMITMENT TO THIS REGION. AS USUAL, HE ADVISED THE U. S. TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO AS A WAY TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND THE THREAT OF TERRORISM. MUBARAK CRITICIZED CONGRESS FOR DEBATING THE MOVE OF THE U. S. EMBASSY IN ISRAEL TO JERUSALEM AND WARNED OF WORLDWIDE TROUBLE FOR THE U. S. IF IT IS DONE. MUBARAK ALSO DISCUSSED THE UPCOMING ISRAELI ELECTIONS, THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR AND EGYPT'S RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE U.S. AND USSR. END SUMMARY.

3. AS PART OF A TWO-DAY PRIVATE VISIT TO EGYPT, SENATOR JACK GARN(R.UTAH) MET WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK ON SATURDAY, APRIL 21. ACCOMPANYING HIM WAS ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS RICHARD KREIGER, DCM AND CONOFF.

4. MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK: THE PEACE PROCESS

SENATOR GARN OPENED THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK AT THE ARUBA PALACE BY REMARKING THAT MOST U. S. OBSERVERS

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ARE NOT SANGUINE ABOUT PROGRESS IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND THAT, HAVING JUST HEARD SIMILAR OBSERVATIONS FROM ISRAELI LEADERS, HE WOULD LIKE MUBARAK'S VIEWS. MUBARAK SAID THAT WHILE HE DID NOT EXPECT TANGIBLE PROGRESS IN A U. S. ELECTION YEAR, HE DID NOT WANT SIGNIFICANT SETBACKS EITHER. MUBARAK COMPLAINED THAT U. S. FOREIGN POLICY IS PARALYZED DURING ANY ELECTION YEAR AND THAT HE FAVORED A CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE ALLOWING FOR AN EXTENDED PRESIDENCY. HE ADDED THAT THE SOVIET SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY WHILE THAT OF THE U. S. DOES NOT.

5. MUBARAK THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO ADVANCE THE PEACE PROCESS WOULD BE FOR ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES IN LEBANON TO ITS INTERNATIONAL BORDER AFTER ITS OWN ELECTIONS IN JULY. HE ARGUED THAT SYRIA DOES NOT POSE A THREAT TO ISRAEL IN EITHER THE NEAR OR LONG-TERM AND THAT CONVINCING ASSAD TO WITHDRAW SYRIAN TROOPS AFTER AN ISRAELI DEPARTURE WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ARAB WORLD. MUBARAK SAID THAT EGYPT WOULD RESPECT ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS. "SYRIA THINKS IT CAN INFLUENCE US TO CHANGE," HE ADDED, "BUT WE CANNOT." THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE PEACE PROCESS BEGUN BY SADAT AND, HE SAID, "WOULD THROW STONES IF PEACE WERE CANCELLED. IT IS ONLY IN THE SYRIAN INTEREST TO DO SO." WHEN ASKED BY GARN IF SYRIA'S OPPOSITION TO PEACE IS PROMPTED BY THE USSR, MUBARAK RETORTED THAT SYRIA IS NOT OVERLY INFLUENCED BY THE SOVIETS BUT "IS A COUNTRY THAT CREATES PROBLEMS BY NATURE."

6. U. S. ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST AFTER WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

SENATOR GARN ASKED MUBARAK FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE U. S. ROLE IN THE AREA AFTER THE MARINES' DEPARTURE FROM LEBANON. MUBARAK QUICKLY RESPONDED: "LET'S BE FRANK, YOU HAVE HAD ONLY FAILURES IN THIS REGION IN RECENT YEARS." HE ADVISED THAT THE U. S. DEMONSTRATE TO ARAB COUNTRIES THAT IT IS A STRONG FRIEND, PARTICULARLY NOW WHEN "THE KNEES OF SOME MODERATE ARAB LEADERS ARE SHAKING" OVER THE THREAT POSED TO THEM BY RADICALS SUCH AS COLONEL QADHAFI. GARN AGREED THAT THE U. S. HAD NO SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST POLICY IN RECENT YEARS, BUT ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHAT MUBARAK WANTED IT TO DO. MUBARAK ADVISED THAT THE U. S. SHOULD OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PLO. "THE ONLY WAY IS DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO," HE SAID.

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"DON'T LEAVE THE PLO TO THE SOVIETS." HE SAID THAT THERE ARE MANY PLO MODERATES WHOM THE U. S. COULD CONTACT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AND THAT A BREAKTHROUGH SHOULD BE MADE WHICH WOULD HELP TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND TERRORIST ACTIVITY. SUCH A MOVE, HE CLAIMED, WOULD BEGIN TO REVERSE THE STRING OF U. S. POLICY FAILURES WHICH STARTED WITH THE FALL OF THE SHAH OF IRAN AND INCLUDED THE ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON (WHICH MUBARAK ADVISED SECRETARY HAIG TO PREVENT "BUT HE DIDN'T LISTEN"), AND THE U. S. FAILURE TO PUSH THE REAGAN INITIATIVE AND SUPPORT THE MAY 17 AGREEMENT. MUBARAK REPEATED THAT HE DESIRED TO SEE CONTINUITY IN U. S. POLICY AND THUS HOPED FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN'S RE-ELECTION. SENATOR GARN TOLD MUBARAK THAT HE COULD RELY ON PRESIDENT REAGAN TO BE STRONG IN FOREIGN POLICY AND TO LIVE UP TO HIS WORD. MUBARAK REASSURED GARN THAT HE FOUND REAGAN TO BE "A GOOD AND STRAIGHTFORWARD MAN" AND DID NOT HOLD HIM

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RESPONSIBLE FOR U. S. FAILURES.

7. PROPOSAL TO MOVE U. S. EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM

"JERUSALEM IS A VERY, VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE," MUBARAK TOLD GARN, "WHICH THE CONGRESS SHOULD STOP DISCUSSING." HE POINTE OUT THAT, ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO, HE HAD RECALLED HIS AMBASSADOR FROM EL SALVADOR AFTER THAT COUNTRY ANNOUNCED IT WOULD MOVE ITS EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM. "RELIGIOUS ISSUES ARE DANGEROUS," HE SAID. "THE REASON SADAT DIED IS BECAUSE HE TACKLED RELIGIOUS ISSUES DIRECTLY SEVERAL TIMES. I ADVISED AGAINST IT." SUCH ISSUES ARE "BEST LEFT TO THE PEOPLE TO DECIDE." GARN ADVISED MUBARAK THAT THE JERUSALEM DEBATE IN THE U. S. IS "PURELY POLITICAL" AND THAT NOT ONE ISRAELI LEADER HAD ASKED HIM ABOUT IT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT. IN GARN'S VIEW, A WORST CASE WOULD BE A NON-BINDING "SENSE OF THE SENATE" RESOLUTION TO MOVE THE EMBASSY. MUBARAK STATED THAT HE UNDERSTANDS PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS SAID THAT HE WON'T MOVE THE EMBASSY BUT THAT THE U. S. WOULD LOSE MANY FRIENDS IF IT WERE EVER DONE. THIS PERSONAL VIEW, WHICH HE WON'T PUBLICLY STATE, IS THAT THE U. S. "WILL FACE BLOODSHED EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD FROM MOSLEMS" IF IT IS DONE.

8. ISRAELI ELECTIONS

WHEN GARN ASKED FOR MUBARAK'S VIEWS ON THE JULY 23 ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL, THE LATTER REPLIED THAT IT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER UPON WHICH EGYPT WILL NOT INTERFERE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE LABOR PARTY IS "MUCH BETTER AND MORE FLEXIBLE" THAN THE LIKUD BLOC.

9. IRAN-IRAQ

MUBARAK TOLD GARN THAT HE DOES NOT FORESEE ANY QUICK RESOLUTION TO THE WAR. HE DOES NOT EXPECT IRAN TO ACCEPT EGYPT'S LATEST PEACE INITIATIVE BUT SENT IT ANYWAY. HE SAID THAT THE GOE WOULD PROBABLY PURSUE THE PROPOSAL IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND IN THE UN.

10. EGYPT-SOVIET RELATIONS

MUBARAK BELIEVES THAT THE SOVIET POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS STILL WEAK BECAUSE IT ONLY HAS SYRIA AS A STABLE ALLY. MUBARAK SAID THAT FORMER SOVIET AMBASSADOR POLYAKOV TOLD PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR OSAMA EL-BAZ DURING HIS RECENT VISIT THAT EGYPT SHOULD NOT HOLD THE USSR RESPONSIBLE FOR LIBYAN THREATS TO PEACE. EL-BAZ MADE IT CLEAR TO POLYAKOV, MUBARAK ASSERTED, THAT EGYPT DOES SEE A LINK BETWEEN SOVIET AND LIBYAN POLICIES IN THE AREA.

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11. EGYPT-U. S. RELATIONS

MUBARAK CHARACTERIZED U. S. - EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AS "VERY GOOD" BY POINTING TO COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE AND ON RAS BANAS. HE ADDED THAT THERE WOULD

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ALWAYS BE DISAGREEMENTS SUCH AS EGYPT'S PAST OPPOSITION
TO U. S. STRATEGIC COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL. HE URGED
THE U. S. TO LISTEN TO HIS ADVICE. "I GIVE ADVICE AS A
FRIEND," HE SAID, "WHO KNOWS THE REGION BETTER THAN YOU
DO." VELIOTES

END OF MESSAGE

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